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R 250947Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6525
INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 2112
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0580
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 9618
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 8386
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 1232

UNCLAS DHAKA 000375

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NEW DELHI FOR DEA
DEPT FOR INL/RM

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [SNAR](#) [AFIN](#) [BG](#)
SUBJECT: 2007 END USE MONITORING REPORT

REF: 07 STATE 163708

¶1. (U) Per reftel, Poloff visited the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) laboratory in Dhaka on March 23 to verify the use of INL-funded equipment.

¶2. (U) The USG has contributed several pieces of equipment to the DNC lab. In 2000, INL provided an analytical balance, a top-loading balance and a polarizing microscope. In 2005, INL provided two high-powered microscopes.

¶3. (U) Poloff viewed the analytical balance and the top-loading balance from 2000 and one of the high-powered microscopes from 2005. The top-loading balance and the high-powered microscope were in use and working properly, although the balance appeared to have rust on its surface. The analytical balance was broken and the laboratory staff said they had no idea what was wrong or how to fix it. One high-powered microscope is in storage because there are not enough lab technicians to make use of it.

¶4. (U) The DNC lab is understaffed and under-funded. In 2003, it had 16 employees who tested about 4,000 samples; last year it had only nine employees who tested nearly 20,000 samples, primarily testing suspected heroin, cannabis, alcohol and amphetamines. Staff said the lab's annual budget for equipment was only about 10,000 taka (nearly USD150). They asked for training on lab equipment upkeep and for a dehumidifier, a dust cleaner and an air-conditioner.

¶5. (U) Comment: USG efforts to support the lab are not enough to ensure efficient operation without increased GOB support. Encouraging the DNC to increase staffing would allow the lab to utilize the equipment it already has more effectively and would help ensure further investments would not be for naught.